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promised to appear at the end of the present year is to come from the pen of Mr. T. Mackay. It will bring the history down to date. If its merits are as great and its defects no greater than those of the present work, it will be interesting, valuable, and most welcome.

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Les Français d'aujourd'hui: les types sociaux du Midi et du Centre.

Par EDMOND DEMOLINS. Paris: Firmin-Didot, 1898. (No date). 12mo, pp. xii+465.

TO ATTEMPT a description of the social geography of France is the avowed object of the author of this present work. It deals with the south and the center, the northern third being reserved for future treatment in a second volume. This one concerns itself with the land tenures especially; together with the influence exerted by these, in connection with the physical environment upon the customs, habits, and temperament of the peasantry. Arthur Young did this for us many years ago in an almost inimitable way. M. Baudrillart has done it more recently for the Institut; and the work of de Foville has covered independently much the same field. Frequent reference to the former occurs in this volume; but the admirable report of the Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, in 1894, seems to have been overlooked, as well as the original work of the great *Enquêtes Agricoles*. On the other hand many interesting generalizations have been drawn from the data here presented. Once in a while these seem to have required a bit of mental ingenuity to bring them into entire harmony with the laws of Le Play's *social system*; but on the whole a step toward the digestion of a great inchoate mass of facts has been well taken. In this sense the book is a distinct contribution; it contains much that the student of populations cannot fail to find suggestive. To venture an adverse criticism, the author seems not to be acquainted with the rich statistical materials available for this country. Perhaps the neglect of it, in favor of the system of minute description by local observers, has been intentional; this mode of treatment here adopted is always bound to serve as an admirable corrective of mere statistical generalizations. Both, in fact, are necessary; and for this very reason the book in its neglect of statistics, especially in their graphic application, seems to be defective.

As to results, our author, by entirely different means, arrives at precisely the same conclusions to which we have come, independently, by the use of graphic methods.¹ The primary contrast of regions of isolation and of competition appears on every page. The entire Massif Central stands sharply defined against the social phenomena of the valleys of the Rhone and the Garonne, and of the Mediterranean coast. To the description of these general influences of physical environment are superadded the more detailed analysis of the local variations of soil, climate, products, and the like. The only element which is woefully slurred over is that of race; our author apparently has no conception of the work done in this field by his fellow countrymen. For the special portions of France, covered by this volume, this omission is not very important; but a corresponding neglect of it in treating of the Germanic north in the succeeding volume would be greatly to be deplored. Meitzen treating of Germany has worked in equal ignorance of modern ethnic facts; he has erred perhaps in overstating the influence of these inherited characteristics.² To do justice to the northern third of France in respect of this element will require very careful work.

In conclusion, this book is a concrete example of that predilection, so characteristically French, for materialistic explanations of social phenomena, to which we have expressly called attention some time ago in the *Political Science Quarterly*.³ It emanates from the little *coterie* of enthusiastic students, dominated by Le Play and de Tourville, and having for its organ *La Science Sociale*, of which M. Demolins is the editor. Many of the chapters of this book have, in fact, already appeared in that journal. This periodical, the society of which it is the organ, with its public lectures, and its library, all seem to be an inevitable result of the one-sided spirit which inspires the official instruction in political economy at the great schools of Paris. *La Science Sociale* seems to be a co-laborer with the *Revue d'Economie Politique* in the attempt to liberalize the economic doctrines of the old school. To us it seems that this phase of protest, by the disciples of Le Play and De Tourville, has not been greatly productive as yet,

¹ *The Racial Geography of Europe*; papers xiii. and xiv. "Modern Social Problems," in *Popular Science Monthly*, February and March 1898. With maps.

² Professor Ashley, in *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. xiii. p. 150, criticises this work from a still different point of view.

³ December 1895.

mainly because of the common error of too great devotion to *system* and *method* to the neglect of the raw material, first of all necessary, viz., facts. This present volume, however, marks a great improvement; it represents an able and determined effort in the collection and analysis of data from observation in the field. It is not the first of its kind however; one often is inclined to wish, in reading the preface and appendices, that this fact were more fully recognized by the author. Nevertheless the work is well done and deserves attention.

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The Establishment of Spanish Rule in America. An Introduction to the History and Politics of Spanish America. By BERNARD MOSES, PH.D., Professor in the University of California. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1898. 12mo, pp. x + 328.

PROFESSOR MOSES has written a brief constitutional history of the Spanish-American colonies. His first chapters deal with the general methods of Spanish colonial government—the council of the Indies, the India house, the powers and duties of each, the viceroy, the audiencia. Then in successive chapters he traces the development of government in Mexico, in Peru, Chile, Venezuela and Colombia, and Rio de la Plata. The closing chapters treat of the Jesuits and the Indians, the king and the church, Spanish economic policy, and, last of all, the contrast in colonial methods between Spain and England.

The Spanish idea of colonial government, like that of France under Louis XIV, was paternalism pure and simple. Every authority emanated from the king. The colonists, except in so far as they became turbulent and extorted their desires by force, had no voice in the control of their own affairs. All laws, all administration, all justice, came from the royal authority. To this general principle must be added the fact that the vast distances and slow communication made it practically impossible for the king to keep adequate supervision over his servants in America, and that as a result the best intentions of the crown were often thwarted by the dishonesty or incompetence of officials, or by the selfishness of the colonists. Thus the repeated and benevolent attempts of the king to rescue the Indians from slavery were in vain. The economic plan with reference to America was that of general